POPULATION TODAY

Vol. 17, No. 6 June 1989

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A positive outlook is a wonderful thing. But the 142.2 million tickets sold in the Pennsylvania Super 7 lottery for the epic draw of April 26 indicate that many buyers, overcome by Lotto fever, may have let optimism overwhelm their statistical acumen.

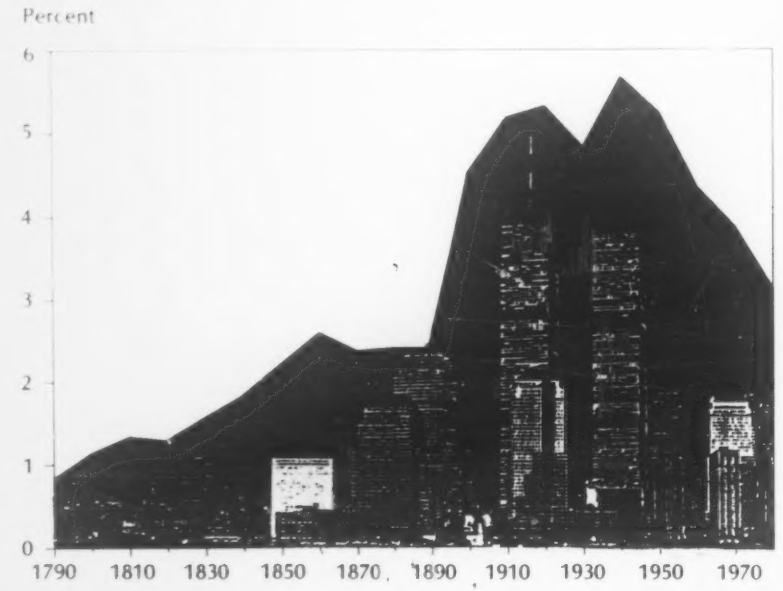
The prize was an amazing $115 million. But to win, ticket buyers had to pick seven out of 11 numbers ranging between 1 and 80. The odds against this feat are about 10-million-to-1. Statistically speaking, in fact, the chances of an average person picking the right number with one Pennsylvania lottery ticket during a given week are only a little greater than that same person's dying in a water-transport accident in that same week.

That is to say, not exactly zero, but pretty remote. (In 1986, there were 1,111 water-transport deaths, and the population of the U.S. was 241,596,000. That works out to a *weekly* death rate of roughly 0.009 per 100,000 population. Go figure.) Bracketed by these traumatic, though statistically rare, events, for better or for worse 99.99998 percent of the ticket buyers probably found lottery week relatively uneventful.

—Art Haupt

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

Americans Who Are New Yorkers



The above graph shows what proportion of the U.S.'s entire population has resided in New York City during the last 200 years. Although the Big Apple has been the U.S.'s most populous city since 1790, when there were only 13 states, its greatest population increases came later, when national urbanization and new waves of immigrants had their greatest impact. The percentage of New Yorkers in the population peaked in the pre-World War II era. Since then, the population size of Gotham's five boroughs has if anything declined, while population growth in other U.S. regions has boomed, in part because sundry Dodgers, Giants et al. have exited the North in search of opportunity elsewhere.

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Foreign Aid Under Review

Contraceptive advertising in Egypt of an AID-supported population program

The way U.S. foreign aid is organized could be radically changed under reforms now being considered in the U.S. House of Representatives. Although a long way from becoming law just yet, the proposed redrafting of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 has the potential of jeopardizing the future of U.S. population assistance to other countries – aid that now stands at $195 million annually.

Such a possible result would, ironically, be inadvertent. The intent of the restructuring was benign. The congressional task force that proposed it made a point of acknowledging the need for such assistance, including the "accelerating" urbanization now in progress in the Third World; which, if unmanaged, "has serious consequences for the global environment, international health, and political stability."

Down to 3/10ths Percent

The very idea of forging a new approach to foreign aid came about from a chance remark by Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "When are we going to do something about the foreign assistance act?" Fascell reportedly asked committee member Rep. Lee Hamilton (R-Ind.). Hamilton mentioned some ideas he had, at which point Fascell promptly asked him to head a task force to work on its reform.

That foreign aid is in need of restructuring is widely acknowledged. The current foreign assistance act written in 1961 now has 33 objectives, 288 reporting requirements, and more than 500 pages of amendments and earmarks. Reporting in February, the Task Force on Foreign Assistance concluded that foreign aid "is vital to promoting U.S. foreign policy and domestic interests, but the program is hamstrung by too many conflicting objectives, legislative conditions, earmarks, and bureaucratic red tape."

Earmarking is the congressional designation of appropriated funds for a specific purpose. Population has consistently been the second largest account in bilateral aid, after agricultural aid.

The report further acknowledges that foreign aid as now constituted "does not enjoy broad public support." Although the American people's willingness to help poor people around the world "remains strong," they do not view foreign aid as doing this effectively. "The public," the report asserts, "have very little concept of the aid program as an instrument of foreign policy."

Both the extent and the form of U.S. foreign aid have changed. Where once foreign assistance stood at about 1 percent of U.S. gross national product (GNP) in the late 1950s, it has now fallen to less than 3/10ths of 1 percent in recent years. In terms of percentage of GNP, the U.S. contributes less foreign aid than its European partners. In terms of absolute totals, Japan's foreign assistance is likely to pass the U.S.'s very soon.

Meanwhile, the share of assistance going to development-related programs (including food and multilateral support) has decreased from nearly 50 percent in the late 1970s to less than 40 percent now.

In the early post-World War II years, foreign assistance was concentrated on the rebuilding of Europe. From the late 1950s to the middle 1970s, Asia was the major recipient. Ever since the Camp David accords of 1979, the Middle East has dominated U.S. regional allocations. In fact, in terms of total aid since 1977, Israel and Egypt have received 47 percent of *all* bilateral assistance.

No More Earmarks?

The task force recommends that the original Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, 500 pages long, be repealed, and replaced by an "International Economic Cooperation Act of 1989."

Most critical to the population field, the structure of the new act "would avoid most of the conditions, restrictions, directives, and earmarks of the current act."

In recent years, Congress, long supportive of population programs, has appropriated the following population funding in the form of development assistance (these figures exclude funds for research).

Fiscal Year	
1985	$290.0 million
1986	$235.3 million
1987	$267.2 million
1988	$198.6 million
1989	$195.3 million
1990	$201.6 million (requested)

The U.S.'s program of population assistance, which operates in 90 coun-

Continued on next page

Foreign Aid

Continued from previous page

tries, has heretofore been run as a separate program of the U.S. Agency for International Development, specifically AID's Washington-based Office of Population. Under the new proposal, this office might cease to exist.

Instead, Congress and the Administration would jointly formulate a new coordination structure to set down policy goals for U.S. economic assistance to less developed countries. The details – including the responsibility for carrying them out – would be worked out at AID's field mission level.

Congressional notification would be needed for changes in country levels but not for project changes. Reporting requirements, now massive, would be kept to a minimum. Instead, accountability to Congress and the Executive Branch would be based on achievement of policy goals.

This goal-directed approach to foreign assistance would have four principal aims:

- **Growth:** encouragement of broad based economic growth.
- **Environmental sustainability:** improved environmental, natural resource, and agricultural management.
- **Poverty alleviation:** "investment in human capacity," which would have many results, including "a more productive economy," "better public health," and a "more stable population," all of which would "promote the interests of the United States."
- **Pluralism:** promotion of political and economic freedom.

Some in the population field worry that in the absence of legislation specifically stipulating a population program and its funding, the proposed reform would give too much latitude to AID's regional directors who could effectively kill specific approaches or programs.

For the present and possible future of the International Economic Cooperation Act of 1989, see Washington Watch.

(As *PT* went to press, the House Foreign Affairs Committee reinstated population earmarking in the 1989 Act.)

– A.H.

WASHINGTON WATCH

The draft bill of the International Economic Cooperation Act of 1989 was scheduled to be finished in late May with a markup to be held in the House Foreign Affairs Committee soon after. (See page 3 for a description.) While the Committee has heard the concerns of a variety of population groups, the foreign assistance reform proposal it is studying still does not maintain separate funding for international population.

On the Senate side there is still no major reform initiative. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is working from the existing legislation with slight modifications. Discussion on foreign aid reform this year will probably begin a process that will continue for the next several years.

Several members of the Committee are expected to attempt to restore specific designations for population and health and child survival. Even if these earmarks prevail, the level of funding will be the same as the Administration's request of $202 million, a $4 million increase over Fiscal Year 1988.

This amount in an authorization bill could establish a low funding precedent. Appropriations cannot exceed the authorized level.

While work on the form of foreign aid is ongoing, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations is scrutinizing its funding level. Chairman David Obey (D-Wis.) has announced that given current revenues, the entire foreign aid budget must be cut by about 10 percent. He proposes to cut development programs closer to 14 percent, including population assistance. This would mean population assistance funding for FY 1990 would continue a downward trend from $198 million to $170 million.

Meanwhile, interest in population growth has emerged in global warming legislation reintroduced this year by Rep. Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.). Congresswoman Schneider's bill is the first, and one of the most comprehensive, bills on this subject. The bill would establish a National Commission on Population, Resources and the Environment to "advance the scientific understanding of overpopulation."

Domestic Family Planning

On the domestic side, there is movement in the Senate to re-authorize the domestic family planning program. Title X, which covers family planning, has been operating under a continuing resolution ever since the authority for the program expired several years ago. Because of the controversy associated with family planning, Congress has been reluctant to consider a new bill. Since this is still early in the legislative session, there is an interest in examining the program in the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

The 1990 Budget

Negotiations between the executive and legislative branches have ended in agreement on an FY 1990 Budget. The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit target of $100 billion on FY 1990 has been met by constructing ambiguous assumptions on the economy and potential revenues. The budget sets the framework for spending and for the domestic discretionary programs including population research, international population assistance, and domestic family planning services. For FY 1990 the budget agreement assumes FY 1989 funding with an adjustment for inflation.

– Nancy McConnell

Nancy McConnell is director of the Washington, D.C. office of the Population Resource Center. The Center monitors legislative issues of concern to the Population Association of America. Neither the Center nor the Association advocates any particular population policy but works to protect funding for quality demographic research.

Housing Explosion of the 1980s

The number of housing units in the U.S. grew at a rate of 26 percent between 1975 and 1985, reaching a total of 100 million units.

This means housing was growing twice as fast as population during this period. The striking differential in growth rates (26 percent versus 11 percent) is attributed to a decline in household size and to the rising popularity of seasonal or vacation homes.

There are signs that the growth rate is slowing. The average annual increase of 2.1 million units in the 1970s has declined in the 1980s to 1.7 million.

A recent report by the Census Bureau highlights the state of housing in the U.S. from 1985 to 1986. Not surprisingly, growth of housing units has mirrored demographic and socioeconomic shifts in the population. Since 1940 the North and Midwest have steadily lost ground in their share of the total housing count. In 1945 these two regions contained 59 percent of U.S. housing but in 1985 they shared only 45 percent. In 1985, 35 percent of the nation's total housing units were in the South and 20 percent were in the West.

Housing is divided into two categories, occupied units and vacant units. (According to the Census Bureau, the terms occupied housing unit and household are synonymous). The nation had 88 million year-round occupied housing units in 1985. Nearly one-quarter of these were built during the preceding 10 years. Another 11.5 million housing units were classified as vacant. This category, which contains more housing units than the entire housing stock of Canada, includes uninhabited units as well as vacation or second homes. There were around 5 million of these seasonably or occasionally inhabited housing units in 1985. Most of what follows below focuses on occupied housing units.

Out of a total of 88 million occupied housing units, 56 million, 63.6 percent, were occupied by owners and 32 mil-

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SURVEY REPORT

Uganda

National-level vital statistics on Uganda have been scarce for many years. The recently published preliminary report of the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS), however, provides some of the first glimpses of fertility data since the 1969 Census on this impoverished Equatorial African country.

Included are some long-awaited data on fertility, family planning, childhood mortality, and maternal and child health indicators in Uganda. Altogether, 4,730 women aged 15-49 were interviewed in 25 of the country's 33 districts. Due to security problems, eight of the northern districts were not sampled.

Fertility in Uganda is high. According to the UDHS, the total fertility rate (TFR) in 1988-1989 stands at 7.3 lifetime children per woman, virtually the same as the TFR of 7.1 estimated from the 1969 census. Similarly, infant mortality remains high, almost 20 percent of the children born to women aged 15-49 were no longer alive at the time of the interview.

Only 6 percent of women are currently using a method of contraception, although almost all women recognize at least one modern method of contraception. Traditional methods continue to be the most widely used methods. Of the 21 percent of women ever having used contraception, 13 percent reported use of periodic abstinence and 6 percent had used the pill. Contraceptive use is higher among urban and educated women. Among current users, 34 percent of women have higher education and 2 percent have no education.

Although millions of condoms have been distributed in Uganda in an effort to reduce the spread of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus, only one-third of the women said they have heard of condoms. Just 1 percent had ever used the method and only one respondent said she was a current user. A survey of Ugandan men could provide a broader picture of condom use in Uganda, however, as women may be reluctant to speak about use.

There appears to be a potential demand for family planning, as 23 percent of married women do not want any more children and 33 percent want to wait at least two years before having another child. Significantly, more than 40 percent of women under age 30 want to postpone the next birth by at least two years.

Diarrhea, a frequent cause of illness and death among children in sub-Saharan Africa, is common in Uganda. Mothers reported that one in five children under the age of 5 had had diarrhea in the two weeks prior to the survey. Only 9 percent of these children were treated with oral rehydration therapy (ORT), an effective and inexpensive remedy. Mothers in Kampala and those with higher education were much more likely to use ORT. It is clear that there is much progress still to be made in decreasing child morbidity and mortality.

The survey asked women about the source of their drinking water. Data are usually lacking on this vital necessity, though it can be a major factor in disease prevalence. Less than a quarter of the women cited a safe source (such as water from water pipe, borehole, protected spring, tanker, or rain). However, almost three-quarters of the women in the urban areas have access to safe water, mainly through piped sources.

– B.S.

DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

Compiling Provisional and Final Birth Statistics

by Stephanie J. Ventura and Robert L. Heuser

Faithful observers of birth statistics produced by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) are occasionally confused because the Center issues two entirely different data sets – provisional and final.

Where They Come From

Monthly provisional data are published about three months after the end of each month. These data are based on the total number of birth certificates filed with each state registrar in a given month-long period, regardless of when the births occurred. The birth certificates received are simply counted for a specific period by each state and reported to NCHS's Division of Vital Statistics. Some births occurring in a previous month or months may be included and others omitted because some local registrars or hospitals may be delayed in submitting birth certificates.

When the provisional figures by state are summed to yield a total for the United States for a given month, adjustments are made. These include estimates for states for which data were not available. (Such estimates are not shown for the individual states in NCHS reports.) An additional adjustment is made for occurrences in California which are reported for either a four-week or five-week period; these data are adjusted for the actual number of days in the month and the adjusted figures are incorporated in the U.S. totals.

The U.S. totals are further adjusted by a factor which takes into account the observed differences between provisional and final monthly figures for the last three years for which both provisional and final data are available.

Final data (the second data set, the one which ultimately has a greater utility) are available about 18 months after the end of the data year. Final data are tabulated by the actual date of birth rather than the date that the birth was registered. Final data are produced by NCHS after all the states have coded and keyed onto data tapes the information reported on all birth certificates occurring in a given year, according to NCHS coding procedures.

> In recent years, U.S. fertility levels have been very stable

Other Differences

Characteristics available in the final data include place of delivery, attendant at birth, sex of child, plurality of birth, live-birth order, residence of mother, age, educational attainment, Hispanic origin of both parents, mother's marital status, health information such as prenatal care and number of visits, birth weight, length of gestation, 1- and 5-minute Apgar scores, and interval since mother's last live birth.

Provisional and final data in NCHS publications also differ in the way they are presented. Provisional tabulations are always by place of occurrence of the birth, whereas almost all final tabulations are by place of residence of the mother. Final data tables by residence exclude births to nonresidents of the U.S., which are mostly to residents of Mexico. These births, totaling about 4,000 annually in recent years, are included in provisional statistics.

The provisional and final statistics derive from clearly different methodologies. Provisional data represent the first look at the data, only three months after the month in question has passed. Final data reflect results of a thorough review of a full 12 months of data.

Studying Trends

Given all of these basic distinctions between the two data sets, how do the numbers compare?

Rather impressively, the provisional and final statistics for a given month or period of months end up being quite similar. For 23 of the 48 months during the years 1983-1986, the difference between provisional and final figures was 2 percent or less. For 41 of the 48 months, the difference was 4 percent or less. On the average, the provisional number was 0.4 percent below the final count for a given month.

Because of the occasionally erratic twists in both the provisional and final monthly data, NCHS encourages data users to look at more than one month of data before assuming that a new trend has developed.

In any case, data for an individual month for a given state should not be used as a basis for assuming a change in the direction of a trend. If it appears that the number of U.S. births has taken a sharp turn up or down in a given month, an analyst should await the data for subsequent months to be assured that the sharp turn was real.

In fact, if data are simply reviewed for a four-month moving average rather than for a single month, a great deal of the variation is removed. During the years 1983-1986, the difference between provisional and final cumulative totals was 2 percent or less in 42 of the 45 four-month periods.

In its monthly report, NCHS tries to smooth out the effect of the monthly variations by using cumulative data. Data are accumulated for January through the month of the report for the

Stephanie J. Ventura and Robert L. Heuser are, respectively, statistician-demographer of, and chief of, the Natality, Marriage, and Divorce Statistics Branch, Div. of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

Selected Maternal and Infant Demographic and Health Characteristics, 1986

Characteristics	Hispanic				Non-Hispanic		
	Total[1]	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total[2]	White	Black
	Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years						
Fertility rate	93.9	95.5	68.4	55.8	63.3	–	–
	Percent						
Mothers under 20	16.4	17.4	20.9	6.8	12.0	9.5	22.8
4th and higher order births	15.6	18.2	11.7	5.7	9.1	7.6	14.1
Mothers with 12 or more years of education	56.7	41.1	55.2	80.3	80.8	84.5	67.8
Prenatal care beginning in first trimester	60.3	58.9	57.2	81.8	77.1	81.6	60.6
Low birth weight[3]	6.1	5.6	9.2	5.5	7.0	5.6	12.7

[1]Includes Central and South American and other unknown Hispanic origin which are not shown separately.

[2]Includes races other than white and black.

[3]Birth weight of less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces).

Note: Fertility rates are for 11 States for which population data were available.

Source: Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

United States and for each state, and for the United States they are also accumulated for the 12-month period ending with the month of the report. Cumulative data tend to reduce the impact of erratic monthly variations and suggest current trends in fertility more accurately. In addition, if NCHS subsequently receives revised counts from any state or states for a given month, figures for previous months are revised, and the revisions are included in the cumulative figures.

Over the last several years, fertility levels have been very stable in this country, with annual changes in the number of births amounting to 1 percent or less in most years. The question that might then be asked is: Do provisional figures for a given year correctly describe the level and direction of fertility for that year? (Correct figures are defined as those derived from final data.) The answer is yes, based on a review of provisional and final birth figures for 1980-1986. The provisional totals for each year were within 1 percent of the final figures.

Additionally, the year-to-year changes in provisional and final data were similar in size and direction, with changes in final data tending to be slightly smaller than those in provisional data. These observations lead us to conclude that so long as the limitations described above are kept in mind, the provisional counts as well as the final detailed data are useful and can be of value to demographers, market researchers, and others.

A Note on Hispanic and Asian Fertility

NCHS first published annual birth statistics for the Hispanic population for the 1978 data year[1] and has published annual summaries of Hispanic fertility for data years 1979-1985. These reports included tabulations and analyses of births by state and Hispanic origin of mother and father, birth and fertility rates by Hispanic origin, and characteristics of Hispanic and non-Hispanic births such as age of mother, live-birth order, educational attainment of mother, marital status of mother, prenatal care, low birth weight, preterm births, and 1- and 5-minute Apgar scores. (Summary measures used to evaluate the newborn baby's condition at birth).

Beginning with the 1986 data year, the Hispanic fertility data have been included in the Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics[2], an annual supplement included in the Monthly Vital Statistics Report series. Although the reporting area for Hispanic origin is limited (23 states and the District of Columbia in 1986), it nonetheless includes more than 90 percent of the total U.S. Hispanic population. These data are therefore believed to reflect accurately the trend and level of fertility of the Hispanic population for the entire country.

The Hispanic fertility rate on average has been about 50 percent higher than the rate for the non-Hispanic population, 94 births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years compared with 63 in 1986, but the levels differ considerably for specific Hispanic groups, as shown in the table. Hispanic mothers in general are more likely to be teenagers, less likely to have completed high school, and less likely to start prenatal care in the first trimester.

Despite all of this, however, they have had relatively low percentages of low-birth-weight babies. The reasons for this apparent anomaly are not understood. The proportion of babies with low birth weight is even lower for births to Hispanic mothers who were born outside the U.S. than for births to U.S.-born mothers[3]. It has been suggested that nutrition is a particularly high priority among foreign-born pregnant women, but definitive information on this topic is not available. Additionally, data from NCHS's Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey show that Hispanic women are less likely than non-Hispanic women to smoke.

Births to Asian mothers have increased substantially during the late 1970s and 1980s. Particularly large

Continued on next page

Housing

Continued from page 5

lion (or 36 percent) by renters. In 1930 only 40-50 percent of householders owned their home. This figure increased to 60 percent in the 1960s and peaked at 65.8 in 1982.

For homeowners, increasing sale prices have caused concern about the corresponding increase in property taxes. However, figures show that although the median sales price of new homes rose 115 percent in 1975-1985 and the value of existing homes rose 125 percent, property taxes grew only 55 percent. Corrected for inflation, this means that new home prices and existing home values increased 9 and 14 percent, respectively, and taxes actually fell 21 percent.

The median sales price for new homes was $84,300 nationally ($66,300 for existing homes) in 1985. In the Northeast the median new home price reached $100,000, the figure was $90,000 in the West. Both regions had a 1975-1985 price increase of 130 percent. For existing homes the West led the regions, with a median of $94,000 in 1985 (a 1975-1985 increase of 174 percent). The median existing home value in the Northeast was $80,000, while in the Midwest and South the figure was $60,000 or less.

About six-tenths of owner-occupied houses were mortgaged. Between 1981 and 1985, homes with paid-up mortgages increased by 2.6 million while the absolute number of owner-occupied mortgaged homes decreased by 1 million. The Census Bureau has been keeping records of mortgage status since 1890 and this is the first time a decline in the number of mortgaged homes has ever been observed.

Economic changes have affected the ability of young couples to become homeowners. In the mid-1970s, three-fourths of all married couples aged 25-34 had already bought their first home. In 1985 fewer than half of these couples could afford to buy a home. Between 1981 and 1986 the percentage of householders who owned their home dropped in every age group below 50 years. The sole group for whom the rate increased was those aged 65 and even for them the rise was only slight. Over 75 percent of those 65 years of age and over are homeowners.

About 60 percent of all households lived in single-family, detached houses in 1985. Five percent lived in single-family townhouses or duplexes, 6 percent in mobile homes, and the rest in multiple-units such as apartment houses. Among homeowners, however, 94 percent lived in single-family units, whereas only 33 percent of renter occupied units were single-family.

Almost half (49 percent) of owner-occupied housing units were concentrated in the suburbs, while almost half (47 percent) of the renter-occupied units were in the central city.

Householders in the Midwest and South were more likely to live in non-metropolitan areas and also more likely to live in single-family homes than householders in the Northeast and West. Mobile homes were more prevalent in the South than in other regions.

Most housing units possess the basic amenities of modern life. Only 1 percent of occupied housing units lacked complete plumbing facilities in 1985 and almost 85 percent of households were served by public water system (97 percent of households in urban areas and half of the homes in rural areas). Only three-fourths of U.S. homes, however, were served by a public sewer. The majority of homes offered other desirable housing attributes such as central heat (88 percent of the units), air conditioning (62 percent), and garage (53 percent). Only 28 percent had a fireplace.

The average size of new single-family housing has increased steadily since 1950, with a few downturns during brief recessions in the 1970s and 1980s. Since 1966 the Census Bureau reported that the average size of new houses has increased about 20 percent. The median age for occupied housing units in 1985 was 23 years.

The statistics which involve children emphasize the recent tendency towards smaller families. Over 31 million households included own children under 18 years of age, only 1.6 million more than in 1975. On the other hand, households with no children increased by 14.3 million from 1975 to 1985. For homeowners, units with no children increased by 9.8 million, while those with children actually decreased by about one-half million.

Both blacks and Hispanics spend a higher percentage of their income on housing (over 25 percent vs. 21 percent for all households). They also have lower rates of homeownership (a little over 40 percent vs. 64 percent for all households).

—J.F.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Housing in America, 1985/86*. Current Housing Report Series H-121, No. 19, March 1989.

Demographer's Page

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increases have been recorded for births classified as "other Asian or Pacific Islander" (which includes those reported as Asian Indian, Cambodian, Korean, Laotian, Thai, and Vietnamese; by contrast, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Hawaiian births are tabulated individually). Between 1978 and 1986, other Asian births increased from 24,597 to 61,540. Except for Hawaiian mothers, teenage childbearing is relatively uncommon among Asian women.

Very high proportions of Asian mothers are college graduates. Many are women in their thirties and older. The incidence of low birth weight among Asian births is comparable to that for births to white women; the relatively low levels are probably related to the low incidence of teenage childbearing and high educational attainment. An analysis of the characteristics of Asian births has been published[4] and is updated annually in the Advance Report[5].

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4. Taffel, Selma, Characteristics of Asian Births, United States, 1980, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 32, No. 10 Supplement, Feb. 10, 1984.
5. NCHS, op. cit.

New Census Director?

Four months have passed and President Bush has still to name a new director for the Census Bureau. In itself, the delay is not particularly unusual – new administrations typically take many months to fill their top slots, and the Reagan Administration did not nominate a permanent census director until July 13 of its first year. Nevertheless, census watchers are concerned about the Bureau because its most important operation, the decennial census, now looms just nine months off.

In the meantime, the Bureau is being headed on an acting basis by deputy director C. Louis Kincannon. The previous director, John G. Keane, left in January 1989 to take an academic position.

In April 1989 the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Alan Heslop – who heads the Rose Institute, a nonprofit California think tank studying demographic and electoral trends – was considered the front-runner to be appointed census director.

Heslop also teaches government at Claremont McKenna College and is active in California Republican politics. The report that he was being considered for the post brought statements of support from a number of Republican politicians, who voiced admiration of Heslop's work. It also brought protest from state Democratic politicians, who voiced fears that Heslop's political background might lead to politicization of the census, i.e., lack of concern about undercounting of minorities in the census. In terms of reapportionment, undercounting of minority populations is thought by some to favor Republican congressional districts more than Democratic ones. Undercounting would also change the amounts of federal funding disbursed in certain areas.

Heslop, who has acknowledged his interest in the director position, insists that he is committed to ensuring an accurate count.

Whomever the President nominates for the Census Bureau must be confirmed by the Senate.

– *A.H.*

SOFTWHERE

Popsim is a demographic forecasting program for IBM-compatible PCs enabling users to perform population projections by sex in five-year age intervals, and make 100-year projections in terms of population, energy consumption, and GNP growth based on user-supplied assumptions about growth rates, migration rates, energy use rates, and per capita GNP and GNP growth rates.

The program was written by Laurence L. Falk and Carol J. Falk.

Popshow: Introduction to Demography is a teaching program offering graphic illustrations and explanations of demographic concepts such as life tables, demographic transition, and changes in population size and composition.

Written by George E. Immerwahr, Popshow requires 256K memory and a color monitor and adaptor.

The above programs are each available for $25.00 from the National Collegiate Software Clearinghouse, Duke University Press, 6697 College Station, Durham, N.C. 27708. The Clearinghouse distributes by mail varied social-science and humanities-oriented PC software authored by faculty at several dozen universities.

– *A.H.*

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of March 1, 1989	247,968,000
As of March 1, 1988	245,554,000

The above estimates include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1038.

Estimated World Population:

As of July 1989	5,234,000,000
Annual growth	93,000,000

From the mid-1988 population on PRB's *1989 World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: December 1988

	12 months ending with December					
	Number		Rate			
Item	1988	1987	1988	1987	1986	1985
Live births	3,919,000	3,827,000	15.9	15.7	15.5	15.7
Deaths	2,168,000	2,133,000	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7
Natural increase	1,751,000	1,694,000	7.1	6.9	6.8	7.0
Marriages	2,392,000	2,409,000	9.7	9.9	9.9	10.2
Divorces	1,189,000	1,158,000	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0
Infant deaths	38,600	38,000	9.9	10.0	10.4	10.6
Population base (in millions)			245.8	243.5	241.1	238.5

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.

Source. Monthly Vital Statistics Report (Vol. 38, No. 1) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

TAKE A NUMBER

A Maturing Transition?: Birth rate speculation is a favorite pastime of population watchers over and above its vital importance to the results of population projections. The steep decline in the developed countries' birth rates has been well documented. Everyone "knows" that Sweden has the lowest fertility and that West Germany's population is on the wane. The only problem is that Sweden's rate is now in the top tier of fertility rates in Northern and Western Europe, and West Germany's population continues to grow due to immigration.

Projecting trends from recently reported rates is risky business, but here is what is happening. Fertility levels in countries where birth rates have been the "lowest of the low" appear to have bottomed out. The fact that fertility in many developed countries has plateaued at low levels has been noted in this space before, but now there are clear signs of the beginnings of a rise.

West Germany, which must be the world record holder for lowest fertility with a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.28 lifetime births per woman in 1985, now has a TFR approaching 1.5. Sweden's TFR has risen for the past five years to an estimated 1.9, within an eyelash of rounding to 2.0! Other countries showing a similar ascending trend from very low rates are Denmark and Norway. Not all countries reach extremely low levels before showing some sign of a resurgence. The United States' TFR has climbed back to a (provisional) 1.9 for 1988, up from 1.7 in 1976. And while not exactly showing a rise, the low fertility rates of some countries have at least leveled out and established a record of relatively stable rates: Belgium, Austria, France, and the Netherlands are examples.

In Eastern and Southern Europe, meanwhile, the transition to very low fertility appears to be in full swing. Italy currently records the world's lowest TFR at 1.3, and if preliminary measures prove correct, Southern European TFRs may be dropping as low as 1.5 in Greece, Portugal, and Spain.

Too much, of course, should not be made of short-term swings in birth rates. The trends described above almost certainly result from some delayed childbearing in the late 1970s and early 1980s occurring now. Nonetheless, some feel there is a certain plausibility to the idea that developed-country fertility is in the process of "seeking its own level" – and that that level may be higher than the past decade's dips would have suggested. At any rate, should Sweden's TFR actually cross the 2.0 mark, that would, demographically speaking, be "big news."

– C.H.

ADDENDA

INTERVIEWERS

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ENUMERATORS

$6.00 PER HOUR
22½ CENTS PER MILE CAR ALLOWANCE

Precanvass field workers needed. This is a temporary position lasting approximately 6 to 9 weeks. The precanvass enumerators are responsible for verifying addresses within the urban area of Washington, D.C. and conducting brief interviews when necessary. The enumerator then spots these houses on a map.

To qualify you must:

BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD OR 16 YEARS OLD AND
MEET EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS SET BY STATE AND LOCAL LAWS

QUALIFY BY PASSING A WRITTEN 30 MINUTE TEST

IN MOST CASES APPLICANTS WILL NEED AN AUTOMOBILE IN
**GOOD WORKING ORDER*
AND A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE

Qualified applicants should apply as soon as possible by visiting the following location for testing:

UPO OFFICE
1336 H St. N.W.
Washington, DC

Thursday, April 6
10:00am, 12:00pm or 2:00pm

MARTIN LUTHER KING CENTER
1326 Florida Ave. N.E.
Washington, DC

Thursday, April 4
10.00am, 12:00pm or 2:00pm

WASHINGTON HIGHLAND LIBRARY
115 Atlantic St. & So. Capitol Terr.
Washington, D.C.

Thursday, April 3
10:00[illegible]

This classified ad for precanvass field workers, which appeared in the *Washington Post*, is a harbinger of 1990 Census positions to come. Local government employment offices or newspapers should have news this summer about hiring for the real crunch ahead. From October 1989 to September 1990 the Census Bureau will be hiring half a million temporary people overall, of whom 300,000 will be enumerators.

CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 777 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

DEVELOPMENT DATA BOOK and TEACHING GUIDE (revised editions), by the World Bank. (Contact World Bank Publications Dept., 1818 H St. N.W., #J2203, Washington, D.C. 20433, 1988.) Classroom set (includes 11 copies *Development Data Book* and 1 copy *Teaching Guide*): $9.95. Single copies of the *Development Data Book* only: $4.95. (Prices vary outside of the United States).

The *Development Data Book* is a 20-page guide to international social and economic statistics. The first section of the book combines colorful maps and charts with text highlighting the following indicators: life expectancy, school enrollment, population growth, GNP per capita, and merchandise exports. The second section is a data table with 12 additional indicators for 129 countries and six regions.

The accompanying *Teaching Guide* includes learning activities which help students study social and economic conditions in developing countries. Students may perform a variety of tasks including statistical applications, map and data analysis, problem solving, and decision making.

The *Teaching Guide* has 40 pages of activities. Answers and other information for teachers are printed in blue and will not photocopy. The activities include exercises to familiarize students with the indicators being used, review pages, activities for advanced students, discussion questions, values analysis, research topics, debate topics, and a test. World and regional maps are also included.

—Kimberly Crews

THE OTHER PATH, by Hernando de Soto. New York: Harper & Row, 1989. 271 pages. $22.95.

The informal urban sector is traditionally pictured as chaotic and menacingly outside the law—"marginated" "informals" "squat" in "*villas miserias*," "pirate" electricity, and "hustle" for a living as "black marketeers" in an "underground economy."

Hernando de Soto, a Peruvian economist, paints quite a different picture in his celebrated book, *El Otro Sendero*, now available in English as *The Other Path*. Armed with data compiled by researchers at Peru's Instituto Libertad y Democracia (ILD), de Soto compellingly demonstrates that Lima's informal sector is astonishingly productive and well organized.

In Peru, de Soto contends, "48 percent of the economically active population and 61.2 percent of work hours are devoted to informal activities which contribute 38.9 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) recorded in the national accounts."

Nearly half of Lima's population lives in "informal" housing, or homes that the poor usually had to build for themselves on land that they had to claim by hook or by crook. For example, in 1985, ILD data demonstrate that the legal system only accounted for 31 percent of the new houses built in the capital.

Similarly, the informal system runs 91 percent of Lima's transport vehicles. An estimated 439,000 *limeños* depend on informal street and market trade for their living. The average vendor's income, ILD found, was an impressive 38 percent above the minimum wage.

Migration from the countryside was the watershed of the vibrant informal sector. During 1940-1981, Peru's urban population, now centered in Lima, increased from 2.4 to 11.6 million. The newcomers, however, were unable to penetrate the formal system. ILD researchers found, for instance, that it would take a poor *limeño* 289 days and $1,231 to legally register a small factory.

As the establishment was slow formally to absorb the job seekers and their aspirations, the outsiders perforce created their own economic, political, justice, and value systems. De Soto observes that "people are capable of violating a system which does not accept them, not so that they can live in anarchy but that so they can build a different system which respects a minimum of essential rights."

De Soto contends that Peruvian laws are used by elites to compete for economic power: "There appears to be a tradition among our country's lawmakers of using the law to redistribute wealth rather than to help create it. From this standpoint, the law is essentially a mechanism for sharing a fixed stock of wealth among the different interest groups that demand it." The author finds great similarities between contemporary Peru and mercantilist European states before the industrial revolution.

De Soto's advocacy of a free marketplace and the right of private ownership make *The Other Path* fashionable at the moment. But the book's enduring contribution is the detailed examination of Lima's complex and effective informal sector. The description of the poor people's ingenuity in the face of an unfair system is truly fascinating.

The Other Path is a well-written book that is well translated. It is very important, if for no other reason than that it has been a revelation for a great many important people. Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian novelist who contributed the foreword, is now a candidate for Peru's presidency, running largely on the ideas engendered by the book.

—Win Carty

SPOTLIGHT

Namibia

Population (mid-1989): 1.8 million
Land area: 318,252 sq. miles
Births per 1,000 pop: 44
Deaths per 1,000 pop: 13
Rate of natural increase: 3.1 percent
Total fertility rate: 6.1 children per woman
Infant mortality rate: 111 infant deaths per 1,000 live births
Life expectancy: 55 years
GNP per capita (1986 est.): n.a.
Capital: Windhoek

by Gwenda Brophy

Following decades of dispute regarding its future, Namibia in South West Africa began its transition to independence on April 1, 1989. Formerly a German protectorate, an era which ended during the First World War when South Africa assumed control, this huge territory, four times the size of the United Kingdom, is bordered to the north by Angola and Zambia, by Botswana to the east, the Republic of South Africa in the south, and some 850 miles of Atlantic shoreline on the west.

The Namib desert covers approximately 15 percent of the total area while the Kalahari desert stretches over large part of the north and east.

Namibia has one of the lowest national population densities in the world, 5.7 persons per square mile. The rural population is growing at approximately 3 percent per year, a rate the land cannot support, promoting a great deal of internal migration (especially among the young) to the towns, exacerbating existing pressure on housing, educational and health facilities.

The land has abundant mineral resources, with the world's richest diamond fields and largest uranium mine contributing half of the nation's wealth. However, in terms of employment, agriculture has the greatest impact of all sectors of the economy, with about 75 percent of people directly or indirectly dependent on it. Two-thirds of all Namibians depend on subsistence farming. Commercial farming is primarily based on livestock. There is still little manufacturing.

Ethnically, 75.4 percent of the population are black, 11.3 percent white, 10.3 colored, and 3 percent Bushmen. The Ovambo group makes up half of the population. There are approximately 80,000 whites in the country.

As yet Namibia has no family planning policy per se. Provision of family planning is made through the broader health care service in clinics, at "visiting points" served by mobile services in both urban and rural areas, and in hospitals in urban areas. Prevalence is much higher in urban areas and among women with more education.

Educated women use a wider variety of methods – pills, injectables, IUDs, and condoms. Women with little or no education appear to favor injectables, a method also preferred by teenage girls, who reportedly prefer not to be seen carrying around the pill.

Awareness of the role of condoms in preventing sexually transmitted diseases is present among younger men who favor this method more than do older males. Other proximate determinants of fertility also have influence – urban women breastfeed an average of six months in contrast to the two-year average among rural women.

In addition, the related practice of postpartum sexual taboos is observed more stringently in rural areas and by women with less education.

The degree of "unmet need" for family planning is difficult to establish. However, fertility outside marriage is common, and many women are reaching parities which are deleterious for maternal and child health. Achieving the goals of IEC (information, education, and communication) presents a major challenge.

Unlike most other African countries, Namibia begins independence with a well-developed physical, administrative, and financial infrastructure and a strong communications network.

Only about 25 percent of the total population live in the capital, Windhoek, and other towns at present (75 percent of the white population, 18 percent of the black) but this will increase to two-fifths by the end of the century. About three-quarters of the population aged 6-16 (encompassing women about to enter the childbearing years) attend school. Expansion of tourism will increase opportunities in the service sector, substantially but not exclusively for women.

Namibia borders Botswana, one of the two black African countries where prevalence of modern contraceptives is highest. Like Botswana, its wealth is mineral-based. Whether it will begin to mirror Botswana demographically remains to be seen.

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